

# ORAL EXAM EXPERIENCE SHARING

**VEF 2014 Visiting Scholars**

**Duong Thuy Yen and Nguyen Khoi Nghia**  
**From Cantho University**

**Oral Exam Orientation**  
**June-2014**

# Preparation

- ▣ Read the guideline/introduction file(s) from VEF for candidates
  - take note important lessons.
- ▣ Review your application documents (e.g. Professional development plan - PDP, letters of commitment, etc.)
  - Think about reasons for your PDP, your plan after the program, time schedule, your host university and professor(s), etc.
- ▣ Review your past and current research (including your thesis and dissertation), publications, etc.
  - Important points/contributions of your work

# Preparation

- ▣ Practice communication skills (e.g., follow instruction by Dr. Lynne McNamara)
  - ▣ Practice pronunciation, especially scientific terms in your research.
  - ▣ Practice the interview with other partners (if applicable) or by yourself
- should practice before and once at the night before the interview day.

# Preparation

## Some tips

- Be relaxed and don't put any pressure on yourself before the interview session → Think that you will do your best during the interview.
- If you stay far away from the interview place → should arrive at least 1 day before the interview day.
- Sleep enough in the night before the interview → to be healthy and fresh for a heavy interview time.
- If you have an interview in the morning → have a good breakfast, but not so heavy and don't eat unfamiliar foods.



# During the interview

- ▣ Appearance
- ▣ Communication techniques

## Important:

- Be confident
- Speak clearly and naturally

# During the interview

- ▣ Topics you can be asked
  - Current job, position
  - Current/previous working places
  - Results and/or scientific contributions of your BSc, MSc and PhD theses
  - Reasons for choosing USA to pursue your post-doctoral study/research.
  - We should say some weak points in our major and therefore, we hope that through VEF program we will surely improve them for future development of Vietnam.

# During the interview

- ▣ Topics you can be asked (cont.)
  - Reasons for choosing the host university and professor(s) for your study/research.
  - How did you make contact with the host professor(s)?
  - Your expected outcomes of the program?
  - How can we develop future collaboration between Vietnam and the U.S.A in our specific career?

# During the interview

- ▣ Topics you can be asked (cont.)
  - Details of your research (in PDP):
    - + some new terms
    - + materials and methods (sampling, measurement, etc.)
    - + expected results
  - Your experience in research, publication, teaching, etc.



**Thank you and good luck!**